

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**


Applicant: Claude E. Brown  
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For: AGRICULTURAL  
METHODS WITH  
SUPERHEATED STEAM

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December 15, 2000  
Date

  
Joel Drake

Attorney Docket: 800132-15

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 37 C.F.R. § 1.173**

BOX: REISSUE  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment in the reissuance of the above-referenced patent.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the following claims:

11. (Amended) A method [for defoliating grape vines] comprising:  
generating a flow of superheated steam; and  
delivering the flow of superheated steam to a plant sufficient to at least partially defoliate said  
plant [basal leaves adjacent to developing grape berries].

12. (Amended) The method as in claim 11, wherein the superheated steam delivered contacts the [basal leaves] plant and is in a temperature range of about 250 ° F to about 500 ° F.

Please add the following new claims:

19. The method as in claim 11, wherein said plant is a cotton plant.

20. The method as in claim 11, wherein said plant is a vine, a tree, or a shrub.

21. The method as in claim 20, wherein said vine is a grape vine having berries, and wherein said defoliation includes defoliation of basal leaves adjacent to developing grape berries.

22. An agricultural method comprising:

generating a flow of superheated steam; and

delivering the flow of superheated steam to a plant having a graft, where said delivering is sufficient to inhibit a growth on said plant.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said plant is a fruit plant.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein said plant is a cotton plant.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein said plant is a vine, a tree, or a shrub.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said vine is a grape vine.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein said tree is a nut tree.

28. The method of claim 22, wherein said delivering delivers said flow adjacent to said graft.

29. The method of claim 22, wherein said delivering delivers said flow to the root stock of said graft.

30. An agricultural method comprising:

generating a flow of superheated steam; and

delivering the flow of superheated steam adjacent to a graft sufficient to inhibit a growth adjacent to said graft.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said graft is the graft of a fruit plant.
32. The method of claim 30, wherein said graft is the graft of a cotton plant.
33. The method of claim 30, wherein said graft is the graft of a vine, a tree, or a shrub.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein said vine is a grape vine.
35. The method of claim 33, wherein said tree is a nut tree.
36. The method of claim 30, wherein said growth is a leaf, a sucker or a cane.
37. An agricultural method comprising:  
generating a flow of superheated steam; and  
delivering the flow of superheated steam to a plant sufficient to fumigate said plant.
38. The method of claim 37, wherein said plant is a fruit plant.
39. The method of claim 37, wherein said plant is a cotton plant.
40. The method of claim 37, wherein said plant is a vine, a tree, or a shrub.
41. The method of claim 40, wherein said vine is a grape vine.
42. The method of claim 40, wherein said tree is a nut tree.
43. The method of claim 37, wherein said delivering is sufficient to fumigate mycelia.

**REMARKS:**

As per 37 CFR § 1.173(c), a statement of status of claims and support for claim changes is attached herewith on a separate paper.

Respectfully submitted,



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